

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 12, with the following paragraph:

Moreover, within the third aspect there is also preferably provided the additional steps of checking the received non-repudiable data to determine the control functions which have been assumed; and assigning any control functions which have not ~~been~~ assumed to a first participant, being the participant to which said network control function data was supplied. This allows all the required control functions to be assigned rapidly and without further negotiating messages having to be sent.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 27, with the following paragraph:

Note how each one of the task roles described above defines a set of actions that may generate a variation of the charges for service usage. This is a ~~key~~one point in the solution provided by the invention, since the actual problem effectively arises because of the liability implied by these actions, i.e. those ones that may let the charges vary.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 29, with the following paragraph:

These classes have been written with purpose to re-use them within SIP. ~~The~~One idea of the present invention is to add the statement constructor inside the SIP message constructor (as the PGP file constructor has been reused inside the statement constructor).

In the same manner, the statement parser, called at the server side, should be inserted where the SIP message is parsed. The extensions we have made to SIP are explained next.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 25, with the following paragraph:

An operation consists in an exchange of signalling messages through which one or a number of task roles (i.e. portions of control), and the corresponding liabilities, can be either established, or released. An operation of **liability establishment** happens when a party, willing to assume some control over the session, firstly generates a non-repudiable statement proving its liability against the control it assumed; then, she distributes the statement to all the other participants, making them aware of the assumed liability; this is the primary subject of the present invention. **Liability release** consists of invalidating the proof that a party is liable for control. However, it is clear how this operation must be agreed by an appropriate party (otherwise everyone would be able to set-up and tear down liabilities as he prefers).